April 24, 98 *** ATSDR Regional Information System 2.6 *** PAGE 1
10:55 AM - RECORD OF ACTIVITY -

- Author Information -

Author: Tom Mignone Action Date: 04/16/1998
User ID: TKM0 Time: 11:00 AM

- Site Specific Information -

Name: CORNELL DUBILIER ELECTRONICS INC.
Site Qualifier: FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST/HAZARD INFO.
Address: 333 HAMILTON BLVD City: SOUTH PLAINFIELD
County: MIDDLESEX State: NJ Zip Code: 07080
CERCLIS #: NJD981557879 CRS #: Region: 02 Congr. District: 06

- Site Status -

(1): NPL **X** Non-NPL RCRA Non-Site Specific SACM Federal*
(2): Emergency Response Remedial **X** Removal Other:

- Activities -

Incoming Call	Public Meeting*	Health Consult*	Site Visit*
Outgoing Call	Other Meeting	Health Referral	1 Info Provided
Confrnce Call	Data Review	Written Respons	Training
Incoming Mail	Trip Report	Worker Health	1 Tech Assist
Immed Removal	Other Activity:		

- Requestor and Affiliation -

Requestor: ERIC WILSON
Affiliation: EPA, REGION II/REMOVAL ACTION BRANCH
Work Phone: (732)906-6991 Other Phone: (908)822-1176
Address: 2890 WOODBRIDGE AVENUE-BLD. 209
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County: MIDDLESEX Congressional District: 06

- Contacts and Affiliations -

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Program Area: Community Health Education

Enclosures: N
Signature: Date: 04/16/199

CC: A. Block, ATSDR
T. McRae, ATSDR
J. Pasqualo, NJDHSS

CORNELL DUBILIER ELECTRONICS INC. Action Date: 04/16/1998

- Narrative Summary -

BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF ISSUES

The Region II U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) evaluate analytical data from residential properties located across the street from the Cornell-Dubilier Electronic Inc. site in South Plainfield, New Jersey. ATSDR was requested to determine if polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in indoor dust could pose a threat to firefighters should a structural fire take place at any of these residences, or during fire prevention activities.[1] The ATSDR/Esposure Investigation and Consultation Branch (EICB) has completed several health consultations regarding on-site PCB contamination and made public health recommendations that have included sampling of residential homes near the site [2,3]. A written health consultation is being prepared for the residential data evaluated (across the street for the Cornell-Dubiliar site) that will include details of the data evaluated and health recommendations made for each residential property.

During October 1997, EPA Region II collected surface soil samples from 16 residential properties [4]. The soils were analyzed for PCBs. Approximately 20 surface soils samples were collected from each residential property. PCB levels in surface soils ranged from none detected to 22 parts per million (ppm).

During November 1997, EPA Region II collected dust samples from 12 residential properties [5]. The indoor dust samples were analyzed for PCBs. Approximately two to four indoor dust samples were collected from each residential property. PCB levels in indoor dust ranged from none detected to 205 ppm (or 117 micrograms (ug) total PCBs in sample mass).

SITE BACKROUND

The Cornell-Dublilier Electronics site is located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The appoximately 25 acre site is located in a mixed industrial/commercial/ residential area and is bordered by commercial businesses and residences on the south, west, and north, and on the southeast, east, and northeast by an unnamed tributary to Bound Brook[2]. It is estimated that 540 persons reside within 0.25 miles of the site; the nearest residence is approximately 200 feet from the site [2].

Based on the indoor dust and suface soil analytical data for the residential properties located across the street from the Cornell-Dubilier site, ATSDR concluded that some of the levels

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- Narrative Summary (continued) -

detected may pose a health concern or potential health concern to the residents [6]. A series of recommendations were provided to EPA.

- Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided -

DISCUSSION

PCBs can be absorbed into the body via ingestion, inhalation, or dermal exposure following ingestion of dust or soil, inhalation of PCB-laden dust, or direct dermal contact with PCBs in soil or dust. PCBs have a very low potential for producing acute toxic effects. People exposed to PCBs in the air for prolonged periods of time have experienced irritation of the nose and lungs. [7]

EPA has undertaken a program to remove PCB contaminated dust from the residences which were found to contain elevated levels in indoor dust. This effort should be completed by the end of April 1998. Sampling of additional properties will be undertaken starting in April in order to determine the extent of PCB contamination migration or deposition in the neighborhood. It is fully expected that the indoor dust levels identified through the October and November 1997 sample collection represent the highest levels which will be found during the investigation of off-site structures.

Neither short-term or long-term health effects are likely to occur to fire fighters, given the level of PCB concentrations present in the homes.

CONCLUSIONS

1. ATSDR does not believe that the PCB concentrations found in residential carpeting in the vicinity of the site would pose a health threat to fire fighters should a structural fire take place.

2. PCBs have a very low potential for producing acute toxic effects. Therefore, incidental contact with PCB containing dust in homes does not pose a threat to personnel conducting fire prevention activities.

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- Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided (continued) -

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fire fighter responding to a structural fire at any of the residences containing dust contaminated with PCB should follow standard protocols for respiratory and skin protection.

2. Standard personnal hygiene (i.e., washing hands and face before eating, drinking, smoking) activities should be employeed by fire department personnel, to further reduce exposure to PCB or other environmental contaminants.

Signature:

A. Thomas Mignone, Jr., MPH
Environmental Health Scientist

4/24/98
DATE

Concurred:

4/24/98
DATE

REFERENCES

1. Mignone, Thomas, ATSDR. Telephone conversation with Eric Nilson, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator. Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. site. Request for a health consultation for fire fighters exposure to residential PCB levels. April 15,1998.

2. Kinsler, Steven, ATSDR/Exposure Investigation and Consultation Branch Record of Activity, Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, South Plainfield, New Jersey. Log No. 97-1004. October 7,1997.

3. Walker, Timothy. ATSDR/Health Consultation, Cornell Dubilier Electronics (aka Hamilton Industrial Park), South Plainfield, New Jersey. May 27, 1997.

4. Cornell-Dublilier Electronics Sampling Trip Report (Surface Soil

- Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided (continued) -

Sampling).DCN#:START-02-F-01454. TDD#:02-97-02-0015. PCS#:2076. Sampling dates: October 27,28,29,30,1997.

5. Final Report, Vacuum Dust Sampling, Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, South Plainfield, New Jersey. U.S. EPA Work Assignment No.:2-262. Weston Work Order No.: 03347-001-2262-01. U.S. EPA COntract No.: 68-C4-0022. February 1998.

6. McRae, Tammie. ATSDR/Exposure Investigation and Consultation Branch Record of Activity (Draft), Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, South Plainfield, New Jersey. March 24,1998.

7. Toxicological Profile for Polychlorinated BiPhenyls, U.S. Department of Health and Human Sevices, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, September 1997.